



USAID | KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

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PRESS RELEASE

Kyrgyz Republic Launches \$16 million Millennium Challenge Threshold Program to Improve the Rule of Law

On March 14, 2008 the United States and the Kyrgyz Republic signed a Millennium Challenge Corporation threshold program agreement at the White House in Bishkek. The two-year, \$16 million program seeks to increase the independence and effectiveness of the judicial system, develop a more functional and trusted police force, improve the government's capacity to investigate and prosecute corruption cases, educate the public and media on the dangers of corruption and strengthen the financial disclosure system. The threshold program is a commitment by both parties. By agreeing to participate in this program, the Kyrgyz Republic has committed to implement fundamental reforms that will ultimately benefit all its citizens. The United States has committed to supporting Kyrgyzstan's efforts at reform and helping the government of the Kyrgyz Republic lay the groundwork for a more prosperous and stable future.

The Kyrgyz side was represented by Medet Sadyrkulov the head of president's administration, while the American side - by William Frey, the head of the USAID office in Central Asia. Mr. Frey noted: "Today we witness a historical event, a fruit of the two years of preparation. The program involves alterations into the law enforcement and judicial systems."

The United States Agency for International Development will be the U.S. government agency responsible for oversight and implementation of the Kyrgyz threshold program. The U.S. Department of Justice will implement a portion of the program.

To date, the U.S. has signed over \$340 million in MCC threshold program agreements in sixteen countries: Albania, Burkina Faso, Guyana, Indonesia, Jordan, Kenya, Kyrgyz Republic, Malawi, Moldova, Paraguay, Philippines, São Tomé and Príncipe, Tanzania, Uganda, Ukraine and Zambia.

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The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) manages assistance programs, made possible by the support of the American people. Since 1992, the American people, through USAID, have provided nearly \$400 million in programs that assist the development of Kyrgyzstan's economic sector, healthcare system, and democratic institutions. USAID programs cooperate with ministries, governmental and non-government organizations, businesses, and communities to improve laws, create jobs, increase incomes, improve services, and better manage available resources. USAID operates under a bilateral agreement with the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, and is the largest single-country donor organization in Kyrgyzstan. For more information about USAID programs, please visit: <http://centralasia.usaid.gov>

The Millennium Challenge Corporation is a U.S. government corporation designed to work with developing countries, based on the principle that aid is most effective when it reinforces sound political, economic, and social policies that promote poverty reduction through economic growth. For more information, please visit www.mcc.gov.